

18 APR 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable David A. Stockman
Director, Office of Management and Budget

SUBJECT: NFIP Need for Enhanced Foreign Area and Language
Expertise

1. As you are undoubtedly aware, both the DCI and I are deeply concerned at the inadequacy of foreign language and area expertise in the Intelligence Community. There is a vital need to attract and retain operational as well as analytic personnel with foreign language and area competence in addition to such other skills as scientific, technical and economic expertise, clandestine trade craft, etc. Individual Program Managers within the NFIP are developing their own initiatives to address this problem; several have already been proposed and approved in the NFIP budget for FY 1982, and others will be forthcoming in budget proposals for FY 1983 and the outyears.

2. However, the problem is not limited to the Intelligence Community. We must draw more upon the resources of the academic community to supplement and complement our own efforts. Such programs as the Department of Education's International Education and Foreign Language Studies-Domestic Program and the Translations Program of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), for example, make an important contribution to the pool of foreign language and area expertise upon which the Intelligence Community may draw. While some of the projects funded through these programs are not directly pertinent to national foreign policy or security considerations, many provide background information of considerable value to the foreign intelligence community. For example, both NSA and the U.S. Army's Intelligence and Threat Analysis Center (ITAC) have expressed great interest in NEH's translation of documents concerning the Bakhtiyari, one of the most powerful and influential tribes in Iran. Such material simply is not available through other sources.

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3. I am concerned to learn that the appropriations for FY 1982 for the NEH's Translations Program are being reduced from a proposed \$1.4 million to \$750,000 and fear that with such reduced funding, translations of value to the Community may no longer be undertaken. In view of the importance of these programs in improving our national capability in foreign language and area studies, I would hope that you would be able to restore cuts projected for NEH's translation program and support increased funding for FY 1982 for the Department of Education's Translation and Foreign Language Studies Domestic Programs.

Ts/ B. R. Inman

B. R. Inman
Admiral, U.S. Navy

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